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"Lettergate" questions credibility of Jesse Jackson

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NEWS BRIEFS

Essex prosecutor takes case to court

NEWARK—Essex County Prosecutor Patricia Hurt became the first prosecutor in a dozen years to present a case to the state in court.

Three Newark men were charged with the point blank shooting deaths of two other city residents in what was described as a drug related incident. Prosecutor Hurt found the circumstances of the case "so egregious" that she decided to present the case herself, and blamed the slaying of the two men on the quality of urban and Black life throughout the Garden State.

This year the City News 100 Most

influential African-American community leaders to be honored for their efforts to rebuild New Jersey's urban communities.

NEWARK, N.J. — City News, the State's leading African-American newspaper, will host the Third Annual City News 100 Most Influential Awards Celebration, May 7 at the Newark Airport Marriott to recognize individuals and corporations that are making a positive difference in the quality of urban and Black life throughout the Garden State.

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Whitman raises bounty on Joanne Chesimard

WASHINGTON—At a Capitol Hill press conference, Governor Christine Whitman along with several members of Congress called on increased pressure to be placed on Cuban President Fidel Castro to return convicted killer Joanne Chesimard to New Jersey for the murder of a state trooper.

During the press conference, Whitman announced that she is doubling the state reward to \$100,000 for Chesimard's return. In a recent television interview, Chesimard described herself as a "victim of a U.S. government counterintelligence program, set up by the FBI, to neutralize political activists."

Supreme Court calls for speedier executions

WASHINGTON—Citing a "powerful and legitimate interest in punishing the guilty," the Supreme Court signaled growing frustration yesterday over delays in executing 11 inmates, more than 3,000 death row inmates.

Writing for the court, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said the appeals had "cheated" the state and the victims of crime alike. Concurring with the majority in this opinion was Justice Clarence Thomas.

President Mandela names new head of armed forces

PRETORIA, South Africa—President Nelson Mandela named 48-year-old war hero Lt. Gen. Sipho Nyanda, as the first black head of South Africa's armed forces.

Falsely accused earlier this year of the plot to overthrow the Mandela government, Nyanda, a hero of the armed struggle against apartheid, takes over from Gen. George Meiring, who recently announced his resignation this month after he was reprimanded for presenting a fake coup report to Mandela.

Coca-Cola plant moves to Newark's ironbound, brings employment

NEWARK—More than 1,100 people may eventually be employed at a new Coca-Cola bottling and distribution plant to be built in the Ironbound section of Newark.

To lure Coke, the city and state offered a package of local property tax breaks, income tax credits and job training funds. Spokesman for the Coca-Cola company, Robert Lane said, "It is a great opportunity for the city of Newark and the State of New Jersey. Noting that many of the jobs will go to local residents, Newark Mayor Sharpe James said, 'We will be actively involved in the training and preparation of the workforce.'"

Jane Kenny, Paula Madison, C. Vivian Stringer Special Honorees at City News 100 Most Influential

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Judith Winston directs President's race initiative



Dr. John Hope Franklin, at left, Chairman, Advisory Board of the President's Initiative on Race, discusses with Judith Winston Executive Director of the President's Initiative on Race, some of the nationwide program initiatives being implemented to improve race relations in this country. Winston was recently honored by her alma mater, Howard University, for her outstanding accomplishments.

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Traditionally, violence and rioting have often been the most visible and destructive results of racism and the impetus for public discussion. These days, there is a nationwide movement to address the issue of racism, not in crisis mode, but rather through discussions during a time of relative peace.

"People are talking about race during a time when there is no crisis," says Judith A. Winston. "If you look back at history, at previous times when race has been a major topic of public debate, it has typically been the result of civil disturbances. We are experiencing a time of relative prosperity, [what more] opportune time to engage Americans in constructive dialogue on how to build a more perfect union?"

A 1998 honoree at Howard University's Charter Day Convention, and a 1966 graduate of the university, Winston carries an awesome responsibility as the Executive Director of one America in the 21st Century. The President's Initiative on Race (PIR), whose mission it is to assist him in addressing this issue of race. It is a pioneering "effort to move the country closer to a stronger, more just, and unified America."

Some would call her job a mission impossible, but Winston is a strong, confident and competent African American woman with an impressive background. "Collectively, all that I have done up to now has prepared me for this unprecedented endeavor," she says.

One of seven honorees to receive an Alumni Award for Distinguished Post Graduate Achievement from Howard University on February 28, she holds a JD degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. Prior to her appointment as head of the President's Initiative in 1997, she served as General Counsel and Acting Under Secretary to the U.S. Department of Education, managing a staff of more than 80 attorneys providing legal services to the Department.

Previously, Winston was an Associate Professor of Law at American University in Washington, D.C., where she taught Civil Procedure and Civil Rights. She also worked as a lawyer on a variety of civil rights, race, and gender equity issues, and was Deputy Director of Public Policy at the Women's Legal Defense Fund also in Washington, D.C.

In addition, she served as Deputy Director of the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Executive Assistant and Lead Counsel to the chair of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Civil Rights in the former U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Winston has authored many articles on civil rights, employment discrimination, and women of color in the workplace.

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Auto insurance reform has bumpy ride

By g.r. mattox

One of the major planks in last year's gubernatorial election is now being developed in the state legislature. The difficult subject of auto insurance rates got no easier when the two recent pieces of legislation—Senate Bill 3 (S-3) and Assembly Bill 1970 (A-1970)—try to reach common ground.

Governor Whitman recently issued a conditional veto to the Senate bill which would amend the state's system of automobile insurance, and recommended changes that would improve the bill.

The conditional veto purports to provide greater consumer choices, mandate that any changes to territorial caps be revenue neutral, establish set criteria for the delineation of new rating territories, and preserve rate caps for senior citizens and drivers who select basic policy.

Although the Assembly bill was passed in that legislative body many detractors feel that this legislation is flawed and favors drivers living in suburban areas of New Jersey.

Mayors from large urban areas unanimously have concerns on how these bills will affect their citizens, and they all voice the opinion that there is still work to be done to reach a fair and equitable system of auto insurance rates for all New Jersey drivers.

A system of fairness to the good driver would receive a good rate no matter where he or she may live is what Trenton mayor Doug Palmer looks for in auto insurance reform. "It's blatantly unfair for urban drivers to pay more for auto insurance," he said. "The entire system needs to be overhauled to make rates lower for everyone and not just urban versus suburban."

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Cochran planning to sue on behalf of black men shot at on turnpike

By Wendy Ruderman
Associated Press Writer

CHERRY HILL (AP)—Lawyer Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. said he is preparing to take on the New Jersey State Police on behalf of three black men shot at recently by New Jersey state troopers.

The star of O.J. Simpson's "dream team" said it seems state police, particularly in New Jersey, particularly in New Jersey, have invented a new offense.

"It's called D.W.B.," Cochran said, "Driving While Black."

Cochran made the comment at the Cherry Hill Sheraton, where he was being honored by a South Jersey chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, a national organization of professional black women.

Wearing a silver silk scarf and a black jacket, Cochran told reporters he got involved in the New Jersey case after several people called his California office.

representing one of the wounded men.

Four black men were driving in a van on the New Jersey Turnpike in Mercer County when two state troopers pulled them over April 23. Police said the van was speeding.

Authorities say the driver of the van put the vehicle into reverse, striking one trooper.

The troopers then fired 11 rounds at the van, injuring passengers Leroy G. Grant, Danny Reyes and Rayshawn S. Brown. Driver Keshon L. Moore was not wounded by bullets.

Ironman, who is currently representing Reyes, said he believes troopers James Kenna and John Hogan stopped the van because its occupants were black.

State Police deny using racial-based traffic stops.



Johnnie Cochran

though a state judge in Gloucester County ruled in 1996 that "selective enforcement" was occurring and ordered evidence thrown out against 19 motorists arrested on drug or weapons charges.

That ruling is being appealed.

Cochran said he and Ironman will represent the families of Moore, Grant and Reyes. He has not been contacted by Brown or his family.

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Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

SOMERSET—Writing in the "Workplace," offered on three Wednesdays, through May 20th from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. helps you develop clear, concise and effective writing skills. This course will be held at the Summit Bank Building. For more info, call 908-218-8871.

NEWARK—Bridging the GAP: Grandparents as Parents Advocacy Conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rutgers University, 973-623-5569.

EDISON—Middlesex County College to host job fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Physical Education Center. The event is free and open to the public. 732-906-4653.

BRIDGEWATER—The Somerset/Hunterdon Business and Education Partnership invites you to the Eighth Annual Somerset Outstanding Student Award Program and Dinner at 8 p.m. at the Bridgewater Manor, 908-725-6032.

NEWARK—A national touring exhibition, "Free at Last: A History of the Abolition of Slavery in America," is now installed in the first-floor African American Room of The Newark Public Library. The exhibition will be on display through May 9th.

ENGLEWOOD—A poetry reading will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Englewood Public Library, 908-277-6245.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

MOUNTAINIDE—The Scholarship Fund for Inner City Children will honor PSE&G and its Chairperson and CEO, E. James Fieldand, at the 14th Annual Scholarship Dinner at 6 p.m. at L'Afrique, 973-497-4189.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Two family law attorneys will examine divorce law in a free public seminar set from 7 to 9 p.m. sponsored by the NJ State Bar Foundation at the NJ Law Center, 732-249-5000.

JERSEY CITY—The Dept. of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community College offers a child development course, "Establishing and Maintaining a Safe and Healthy Environment" from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 201-714-2107.

TEANECK—The Urban League for Bergen County will hold its 40th Anniversary Awards Dinner at the Marriot at Glampointe hotel beginning with a reception at 6:30 p.m. 201-468-4988.

NEWARK—The League of Women

Send events to: CN Community Calendar, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, N.J. 07060 or FAX to: 908-733-1036

Voters & the Clear View Baptist Church sponsoring a Newark Mayoral Forum at 7 p.m. at the Clear View Baptist Church, 973-929-0471.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

CARLISLE, PA—The Carlisle Penn. Fairgrounds will serve as a showcase for more than 1,000 foreign, kit/regional, and late-model custom compacts, through May 10th during the Carlisle Import/Kit/Replica Nationals & Custom Compact Power Jam. 717-243-7855.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

PLAINFIELD—A Science and Math Expo presented by Theta Phi Omega, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Plainfield High School Science Research Club will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pitt High School. Free for ages 5-14. 732-463-3242.

NEWARK—The Newark Museum announces second "Community Day" for singles, couples and families from Chatham, Madison and Florham Park from 12 to 5 p.m. 973-596-6638.

NORTH PLAINFIELD—NJ Institute of Technology Professor, Dr. Herman Estrin, of Scotch Plains, will be honored for 60 yrs. of teaching at the Italian-American Social Club. 201-596-3454.

ELIZABETH—Community Access Unlimited will hold the first of a series of fund-raising flea markets to be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 908-354-3040, ext. 275.

NEWARK—Women in Support of the Million Man March, Inc. honoring the Sacred Mother at a Mother's Day fashion show and raffle from 12 to 4 p.m. at the WISOMM Mansion. 973-371-2944.

CRANFORD—Union County College seeks vendors for its annual flea market which will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Parking Lot 1 of Cranford's campus. 908-760-7505.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Institute for Arts and Humanities Education is looking for young artists age 14-18. Upcoming audition/orientation meetings will be held at Paul Robeson School. 732-220-1800.

PISCATAWAY—Piscataway will host USA Tennis Free for all events as part of a nationwide USA Tennis Day. This will be held at the Rutgers Stadium Courts. 732-764-9289.

PLAINFIELD—Piscataway will host USA Tennis Free. This will be held at the Hub Street Facility. 908-769-0263.

Newark student receives nod for community service



NEWARK—Alejandro Ruiz of Newark was one of seven New Jersey Institute of Technology students named as 1998 Estrin Scholars in recognition of their leadership abilities in journalism, theater, community/civic, communications, fraternity/sorority and professional societies. Ruiz, a senior majoring in electrical engineering technology, received the award in fraternity/sorority. He is the chair of the community and public service committee of the Inter-Fraternity/Sorority Council. Ruiz also has published the Rush Guide and is a member of the Order of Omega and secretary of Theta Chi.

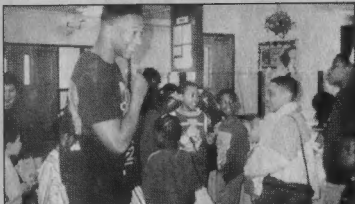
Heningberg is Grand Marshall



NEWARK—Gustav Heningberg (right), host of the award winning public affairs television program "Positively Black" will be the Grand Marshall of the 1998 African American Heritage Parade. He was honored by parade trustee Linda Brashear (left) for his community involvement at the Parade committee's annual Leadership Breakfast.

City News is glad to highlight our community people every week. Send your photos and information to: City News People, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, N.J. 07060.

A day to keep our kids healthy



PLAINFIELD—James Christmas was one of the children's volunteers during The Plainfield Area YMCA "Healthy Kids Day," recently. Youngsters were invited from Middlesex, Somerset and Union County to a day-long schedule of activities and presentations to learn more about maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Social services were also available from such organizations as Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, the Plainfield Health Center, the Plainfield Rescue Squad, Police Department and Fire Department.

Mangum celebrates retirement

FORT MONMOUTH—Sergeant First Class Veronica J. Mangum retired after more than 21 years of military service. She was the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Telecommunications Center at Fort Monmouth. She has a Bachelor degree in Management, and is pursuing her Masters degree in Human Resources. Sergeant Mangum attends Trinity A.M.E Church in Long Branch.



Williams trains minorities in microbiology

WASHINGTON—In the April 29 issue of City News, a story about Luther S. Williams, Assistant Director for Education and Human Resources, National Science Foundation, ran with the photo of another person. We regret the error. Williams is the first recipient of the William A. Hinton Research Training Award. The Hinton Award, which honors an individual who has made outstanding contributions toward fostering the research training of under-represented minorities in microbiology.



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IMPORTANT NEW AGE REQUIREMENTS

TO REGISTER FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN A CHILD MUST BE FOUR (4) YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1998

TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN A CHILD MUST BE FIVE (5) YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1998*

* (OR MUST HAVE ATTENDED A NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOL PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASS WHICH INCLUDES AN EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLABORATIVE PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASS)

STUDENT REGISTRATION

- PARENTS REGISTERING STUDENTS INTO SCHOOL MUST SHOW THE CHILD'S:
 - BIRTH CERTIFICATE
 - IMMUNIZATION DOCUMENTS
 - PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' PROOF OF RESIDENCY (I.E. CURRENT UTILITY BILL, VOTER REGISTRATION CARD, DRIVERS LICENSE)

IMMUNIZATION

- IMMUNIZATION RECORDS MUST INCLUDE SPECIFIC DATES FOR A MINIMUM OF FOUR DOSES OF DIPHTERIA, TETANUS AND PERTUSSIS VACCINE. ONE OF THE FOUR DOSES MUST HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED ON OR AFTER THE CHILD'S FOURTH BIRTHDAY.
- IN ADDITION, THE CHILD'S RECORDS SHOULD INCLUDE INFORMATION ON VACCINATION FOR RUBELLA, MEASLES AND A MINIMUM OF THREE DOSES OF ORAL POLIO VACCINE. ONE OF THE THREE DOSES MUST HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED ON OR AFTER THE CHILD'S FOURTH BIRTHDAY.
- RECORDS MUST ALSO SHOW DATES FOR MEASLES VACCINATIONS. STUDENTS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN MUST SHOW DATES FOR TWO MEASLES VACCINATIONS AFTER THE CHILD'S FIRST BIRTHDAY.

FREE IMMUNIZATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE DIVISION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH, 110 WILLIAM STREET, NEWARK, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 9 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD 733-6234



Mfume condemns action on affirmative action

BALTIMORE, MD.—NAACP President and CEO Kwame M. Muneer expressed outrage with the decision of the three judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in *Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod v. FCC* that eliminates the long standing and effective affirmative

Miss Brawley tested positive for chlamydia in the days after she was found smeared with feces and racial epithets in 1987. Pagones has vehemently denied having a sexually transmitted disease and said he took the anti-bacterial medication to treat a urinary tract infection.

In a four-page ruling Hickman said the defense had failed to offer the proper foundation to show that Pagones' symptoms could be linked to chlamydia and to Miss Brudaw.

action programs in the broadcasting industry. The Court of Appeals ruled that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) "failed to adequately explain how its equal employment opportunity regulations serve the public interest." The ECC regulations are credited with promoting equal opportunity for African Americans, minorities and women for nearly a decade.

programs to locate, recruit and train minorities. Stations whose minority employment fell below the commission's benchmarks would be subject to FCC examination.

Hindery said he met with FCC Chairman Bill Kennard and "assured him of my company's and my industry's continued commitment to this area."

Cable's equal-employment policies have been in place since 1984.

Civil rights leaders have urged the Clinton administration to appeal the court's decision. Robert Johnson, a black media entrepreneur and chairman of BET Holdings Inc., which owns the cable network BET, also is

If the decision stands, it would make it more difficult for minorities to be recruited, hired and promoted and would lessen minority ownership in broadcasting, supporters of the overturned provisions say.

"It wouldn't be unusual that this movie is heavily pirated," said Anat Levy, the executive director of anti-piracy operations for the studio. "It

is the best-selling movie of all time." "Titanic" has grossed \$560.6 million nationwide. Paramount hasn't decided on an official release of a home videocassette.

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over. Certain current and former professionals, college and high school students, and parents of students are invited to participate. For more information, contact: AT&T Social Media Outreach, PO Box 480046, St. Louis, MO 63148-0046. E-mail: stlouis@att.com. All questions and comments are welcome.

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Real insurance reform will take work

It is illogical to penalize the urban driver because of the arbitrary reason that he or she lives in the city. A subject as complex as auto insurance rates need to be looked at thoroughly from all angles before guidelines can be put into place. The point is, there are bad drivers in suburban areas and good drivers in urban areas, and the subject of a driver's record, not his street address, should be the main consideration when conferring rates.

An insurance reform requires a realistic thinking on the part of both legislative officials, an insurance commissioner that is responsive to the needs of the driving public, and the insurance industry. There are some great ideas to solve the problem and make premiums equitable across the board. Governors Whitman and Asatsuma are both New Jerseyans do not have to have the highest auto insurance rates in the country must be backed up with the work and will to make this come about.

To pit the suburbs against the cities is unacceptable.

Dr. King was no opportunist

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

A recent poll conducted by the Marist Institute for Public Opinion questioned a cross-section of Americans on their attitudes toward Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Six in ten say they were influenced by the great civil rights leader, who was slain 30 years ago on April 4. Fifty-three percent of whites and 89 percent of Blacks say that Dr. King's impact on them, in some way or a great deal, has inspired Americans to find a way to go beyond the existing state of affairs to a better way.

For Dr. King, raising the issue of racial and economic inequality inspired Americans to find a way to go beyond the existing state of affairs to a better way. Dr. King was a towering figure whose belief in the capacity of ordinary people to resist oppression and change society never wavered, though he was constantly battered by betrayal at the hands of politicians of one kind or another. Given that he placed his faith in the people and not in the power structure, he never lost sight of his dream of harmony and prosperity for all Americans. Indeed, his dream extended to all the world's people, as his opposition to U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War underscored. He was a dear price for his principles, as pro-war, pro-civil rights Democrats abandoned him at the most crucial moment

in his efforts. For Dr. King, raising the issue of racial and economic inequality inspired Americans to find a way to go beyond the existing state of affairs to a better way. Tragically and all too frequently, when these issues are raised today, they inspire very few to go forward. Mayor Rudy Giuliani's settlement of the Crown Heights lawsuit brought by the Hassidic community in New York City and the defamation suit against Thomas Bradley's advisors have both become occasions for embittered and embittering recollections of racially polarized events. The polarization these situations so intractable and the media's coverage so opportunistic, that they are more numbing than re-investigating, more pliant than the Crown Heights political grandstanding than occasions to reflect on how degenerated the public discourse is not to mention vision - on race has become.

I did not participate in the Marist survey nor speak to those polled. But I can help but feel this small part of the special respect for Dr. King—by both Blacks and whites—has to do with the fact that Dr. King was no opportunist. He never betrayed his people, his country or his cause. Americans deeply love and embrace such leaders.

We might recall Bill Clinton and forgive his transgressions. We might vote for Jesse Jackson or Al Sharpton or other Democrats who come down the pike at election time and invoke Dr. King's name. But we certainly shouldn't confuse any of them with Dr. King. He was the genuine article.

Lenora B. Fulani currently chairs the Committee for a Unified Independent Party.

Lower the lifeboats, now! Public schools are sinking

By Phyllis Berry Myers

Inner-city public schools are like a sinking ship, and the children on board need to be rescued before it's too late. Their schools are sinking fast and educational opportunities are being lost. Classrooms are crowded. Drugs and violence are commonplace. Dropout rates are high; expectations and standards are low.

Inner-city parents, many of whom are low-income, are tired of waiting for others to save their children from failing schools. They are pushing for and beginning to adopt all kinds of innovative strategies to turn around decrepit, bureaucratic school systems—using schools for failure to educate, starting charter schools, halting federal busing, and clamoring for more neighborhood schools in order to foster greater diversity and community involvement. Many are opting out of the public schools altogether, with home schooling and applications for private school scholarships or tuition vouchers at record numbers.

Not surprisingly, the education establishment, particularly the teachers' unions, condescendingly poor-people inner-city parents' support for school reform. They accuse poor parents of not having enough sense to know what's best for their own children and imply they are dupes of sinister forces out to destroy public schools.

New political coalitions are also forming around this issue. Republican leaders in Congress who have long championed the D.C. and other school plans are now being joined by former Congressional Black Caucus member Rep. Floyd D. Spence (R-NE), William L. Thomas (D-LE) and Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT). For once, the GOP has an issue that resonates with a majority of voters, and many people believe will have a positive, substantial impact on their lives and the lives of their children.

And polls back up the Republicans. The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a think tank focusing on issues of black concern, show support for vouchers among black voters rose 10 percentage points from last year to 57 percent. The figure was 87 percent among blacks age 26 to 35.

Perhaps this perceived threat of vouchers and the loss of 2,000 students leaving immediately and the prospect of thousands more signing up on waiting lists will be a wake-up call to those charged with reforming, improving and administering the District of Columbia's schools in the long run, maybe the District can produce excellent schools.

Phyllis Berry Myers is president of Black America's PAC's National Center for Leadership Training & Recruitment.

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Part 2 of a 2 part series

The case of Asatsuma Shukur

By Manning Marable

Three years ago during a visit to Havana, Cuba, I had the wonderful experience of having dinner with former political prisoner Asatsuma Shukur. We talked about the struggles of black people inside the U.S., as well as the important changes taking place in Cuban society. Last summer, with a delegation of African-American scholars/activists, I had another opportunity to talk with sister Asatsuma. She is, politically and personally, one of the most beautiful black women in the world.

I mention all of this because if you have read the newspapers or listened to the corporate dominated media recently, you'll get a very different impression about Asatsuma. New Jersey's Republican Governor Christine Todd Whitman had launched a shrill public relations campaign to "get" Asatsuma Shukur from her life in laid bleeding, other state troopers waited, coming back to her body impatiently asking, "Is she dead yet?"

As Asatsuma Shukur, she is a public statement confirming Governor Whitman's efforts to extradite Asatsuma Shukur. Their statement that "the state is not responsible for Asatsuma's commitment to the liberty of people of African descent in the United States places her in the company of not only Harriet Tubman but also Paul Robeson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Malcolm X and the thousands of other known and unknown warriors in the fight for the liberation of black people in the United States. As our sister and we stand in absolute solidarity with her right to live from bondage."

Despite her years of imprisonment and exile, Asatsuma retains a public statement confirming Governor Whitman's efforts to extradite Asatsuma Shukur. Their statement that "the state is not responsible for Asatsuma's commitment to the liberty of people of African descent in the United States places her in the company of not only Harriet Tubman but also Paul Robeson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Malcolm X and the thousands of other known and unknown warriors in the fight for the liberation of black people in the United States. As our sister and we stand in absolute solidarity with her right to live from bondage."

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Kwane Ture: My Hero!

By Asika Muhammad

By any standard of measure, Kwame Ture is truly a modern, Renaissance man.

Kwane Ture (Stokely Carmichael) is highly revered and respected by white and black people all over the world. He is a man whose contributions to the world culture and politics, especially African culture and politics.

It is not everyone who originates a phrase or five words that make an entry, but Kwame Ture has done just that, coining the expression "Black Power," which changed the power equation in this country, the very moment he uttered it in Mississippi, during the James Meredith March in 1968.

Author Alex Haley once told the story of the canny slave, who, when he was three, nickel and three pennies, that he was a free man.

He was a free man, that was all he needed his clothes—that was his money owned, a can of tuna and 18 cents.

On this particular day, Mr. Haley was a struggling writer living in Greenwich Village. He had written all the major black writers in New York, asking them for anything they could offer—a job referral, a word of encouragement, advice, name. Answered his plea. As he sat in his basement apartment this particular day, Kwame Ture was a free man, that was all he needed his clothes—that was his money owned, a can of tuna and 18 cents.

So it is with me and Brother Kwame. Like James Baldwin he has carried an important place in our collec-

tional thirty years and thirty days. Asatsuma spent a total of six years in prison. For those who do not know, she was held in solitary confinement inside a men's prison, under 24 hour surveillance of the most intimate details of her life without access to adequate diet or proper medical care.

With the help of many people, Asatsuma successfully escaped from prison and immediately went under ground. Despite massive FBI and police efforts, Asatsuma managed to reach Cuba and was granted political asylum.

There is no question that if Asatsuma Shukur is involuntarily returned to the U.S. that she will be persecuted for life, and very possibly murdered by state authorities. The only other Black Panther who survived the 1973 assassination, Sundiata Acoli, is 61 years old and remains in prison to this day. No new trial could possibly be fair, since the trial of the past transcripts have been lost and crucial evidence has "disappeared."

Hundreds of African-Americans and other progressives have issued a public statement confirming Governor Whitman's efforts to extradite Asatsuma Shukur. Their statement that "the state is not responsible for Asatsuma's commitment to the liberty of people of African descent in the United States places her in the company of not only Harriet Tubman but also Paul Robeson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Malcolm X and the thousands of other known and unknown warriors in the fight for the liberation of black people in the United States. As our sister and we stand in absolute solidarity with her right to live from bondage."

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Political Analysis

FIELD ASSIGNMENT

Where is Cardell Cooper now?

By Walter Fields

Four years ago Cardell Cooper was on the A-list. The Democrat was in his second term as mayor of East Orange and was fighting for the party's nomination for Essex County executive. The young politician was considered by many to be a rising star in the party. Cooper had been elected as the chairman of the city executive race did not dim the mayor's star. Two years later he was elected as the chairman of the city executive race did not dim the mayor's star. Two years later he was elected as the chairman of the city executive race did not dim the mayor's star.

Today Cooper sits atop some of the nation's largest and most powerful political organizations. He is the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Both U.S. senators from our state and the White House supported the mayor's nomination to the EPA post. His responsibilities were to have included oversight over the department's efforts to lead "brownfields," environmentally hazardous industrial sites located primarily in urban areas. Cooper's appointment would have been a coup for New Jersey given the fact that Cooper is the most Superfund sites in the nation.

The EPA nomination was derailed when Republicans on the Hill questioned Cooper's qualifications for the position. Their opposition was no surprise. The GOP's public position on the nomination was actually a red herring. Republicans, in fact, are opposed to the Superfund program and have targeted it, and the EPA, for elimination. Unfortunately for Cooper, his political career came to an abrupt end with the increase in the nation's capital.

As Cooper's political career came to an abrupt end, his political career came to an abrupt end. As Cooper's political career came to an abrupt end, his political career came to an abrupt end.

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tended letters critical of Cooper into DC. Not satisfied with seeing Cooper out of Office, his opponents took pictures of new letters. The Republicans were able to use the criticism as ammunition against Cooper. The nomination died a slow death with the party's nomination for Essex County executive race did not dim the mayor's star. Two years later he was elected as the chairman of the city executive race did not dim the mayor's star.

No sooner has the sun set on the EPA nomination did Cooper get a second chance at an appointment. It was announced that he would be nominated to be a deputy secretary in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Once the dust settled on the EPA bid, Cooper was thought to be on track for the split at HUD. This was until the current administration of East Orange began to make noise regarding the repayment of debt money to HUD for a project completed during Cooper's tenure. The grant from City Hall has been enough to delay an official White House announcement of Cooper's nomination. As a matter of procedure HUD has initiated an investigation to determine if funds were misappropriated.

Cardell Cooper's dilemma illustrates just how juvenile local politics can get. Legitimate criticism of an elected official is not the same as fair game. Individuals who serve must be prepared to respond to critics who take issue with their policies or policy.

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Cyber space and the Internet

By Carolyn L. Bennett

The Commerce Committee pushed through a bill that seemed more concerned with software than child care. Republican Senator John McCain of Phoenix, Arizona—a place where technology rides high in this city's saddle, lost the change for software in general.

On Monday, the senator introduced a bill that would force schools and libraries with federal money for Internet to buy software to limit access to the Internet.

Pornography is widely available on the Internet, McCain said introducing what he called "The Internet Safety Blocking Act."

The Federal government will be pouring "billions of dollars per year" into schools and libraries for "advanced Internet learning technology," he said.

"It is only right that if schools and libraries accept" the money, they have absolute responsibility...to assure that children are protected from online content that can harm them."

BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

JAMESBORO—Tri-State Financial Symposium for Non-Profit Organizations at the Fongale County Club. For more info, call 609-699-7888.

BOUND BROOK—New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners and the U.S. SBA presents a free "County Assistance Seminar" for new Jersey women business owners and start up companies, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. 752-356-0833.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

CEDAR GROVE—New Jersey's surrounding area Chambers of Commerce in conjunction with the Regional Business Partnership present a Table Top Networking Event from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Star Truck Inn. For more info, call 973-242-8237 ext. 240.

NEW YORK—Diversity and the Capital Markets, a 3rd annual conference featuring Publicly Traded African American-controlled companies, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more info, call 212-912-0242.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

FAIRFIELD—A one-day seminar on The Basics of Facilities Management will be held at the Best Western Executive Inn from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info, call 1-800-821-3919.

MORRIS TOWNSHIP—A day-long personal finance conference, "Countdown to 2002: Financial Strategies For Your Future II," from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 at the Haggerty Executive Center. For cost and more info, call 973-577-0885.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

NEWARK—Shoemen, Entertainment and Shear Began invites you to our Nat'l Black Business Appreciation Networking Party for 100 Black Men of Excellence at the Essex County Convention Center. This will be held at the Terrace Ballroom at 3 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 11

JERSEY CITY—The Dept. of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community College offers "Telemedicine: Accounts Payable," from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 201-714-2107.

TUESDAY, MAY 12

FLORENCE PARK—"Small Business Administration" will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Hamilton Park, 1-888-4-WHISLE.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

UNION—The Union County Economic Development Corporation presents "Opportunities with DoD," 9 a.m. to noon at the East Campus. For cost and more information, call 908-527-1166.

JERSEY CITY—The Dept. of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community College offers "Business Communications," from 6:30 to 10 p.m. 201-714-2107.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

EAST BRUNSWICK—The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce hosts The Annual New Jersey Small Business Awards Luncheon at the Brunswick Hilton. For more info, call 855-988-7888.

THURSDAY, MAY 15

NEW BRUNSWICK—The U.S. Small Business Administration (NJ District Office and the NJ Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring "Clearing Hurdles" - NJ Conference for Small Business at the Brunswick Hilton. 608-889-7888.

NEW YORK—Professional Women in Construction holds its annual "Salute To Women of Achievement" luncheon at 11:30 a.m. For more information, call 212-887-0610.

EAST BRUNSWICK—New Jersey Conference for Small Business features workshops on entrepreneurship, marketing and managing money at the Brunswick Hilton from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, call 609-989-7888.

WHITE PLAINS, NY—Professional Women in Construction and New York Power Authority will hold a business development event for construction and allied industries to "Meet The Construction Chiefs" at the Power Authority's Jager Room. For more info, call 212-667-0610.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

SOUTH CAROLINA—The 1998 National Association of Market Developers Conference will be held at Adam's Mark Hotel in Columbia. For reservations, call 1-800-444-2326.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

NEW YORK—A Marketing and Business Expo will be held at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers. For more info, call 212-582-2334.

Are you hosting a business event? Let N.J.'s foremost minority business community know about. Send your Business Calendar events to: CN Business Calendar P.O. Box 1774 Plainfield, NJ 07060 Or Fax to: 908-753-1036

Dun & Bradstreet recognize excellence in diversity

MURRAY HILL, N.J.—In honor of the Jackie Robinson Foundation's 25th Anniversary in 1998, The Dun & Bradstreet Corporation (D&B) has become the first company in the United States to formally recognize employees for their contributions to diversity and inclusion by awarding Jackie Robinson Commemorative Coins. Volney Taylor, chairman and chief executive officer of The Dun & Bradstreet Corporation, announced the new recognition program.

The first three recipients of the Jackie Robinson gold coins, co-chairs of D&B's first Advisory Group for Inclusion, were Ronald D. Wesson of Fogelsville, Pennsylvania, vice-president, D&B Minority & Women-Owned Business Development Group; William T. Whitelack of New York, New York, executive vice president, Human Resources; and Lisa Farnsworth of Haddonfield, New Jersey, vice president, Collections Services. D&B's Advisory Group for Inclusion is responsible for setting direction and implementing company-wide inclusion initiatives.

"Having grown up as a Jackie Robinson fan, I am to this day in awe of

what he went through to integrate Major League Baseball and to open the door of opportunity for African-Americans and all minorities in the United States," said Taylor. "Personally, I am very proud of our company's close affiliation with the Jackie Robinson Foundation and call on our members of the corporate community to join Dun & Bradstreet in support of the Foundation and its principles."

Jackie Robinson, who entered Major League Baseball in 1947, broke the color barrier in the United States as the first African-American athlete in professional baseball. A key component of D&B's contribution to the Jackie Robinson Foundation is the four-year financial support of the Jackie Robinson Foundation Education and Scholarship Program. Taylor also announced that D&B has doubled its commitment from two to four scholarships. The Corporation's current Jackie Robinson scholars are Jillian DeCosta of South Ozone Park, New York, a junior at Rutgers University, and Patrick Walsh of Bronx, New York, a junior at Georgetown University. DeCosta and Walsh are two of over 500 deserving



From left: Volney Taylor, chairman and CEO, Dun and Bradstreet; Jillian DeCosta, Junior, Rutgers University and D&B/JRF scholar; Patrick Walsh, Junior, Georgetown University and JRF board member; William Doeschner, senior vice president and chief communications officer, Dun and Bradstreet.

students whose tuition has or will be funded by the Jackie Robinson Foundation and its sponsors. The program, which currently has more than 165 scholars, boasts a 92 percent graduation rate, the highest among similar programs in the nation.

"We're thrilled that D&B has taken the lead in this use of the Jackie Robinson Commemorative Coins for

its employee inclusion efforts, serving as a role model for corporations truly dedicated to recognizing excellence in their employees' efforts at furthering diversity and creating an inclusive environment. This is how corporations demonstrate social responsibility, giving people the chance to succeed," said Rachel Robinson, founder of the Jackie Robinson Foundation and widow of the late Jackie Robinson.

Report to examine women's absence from MBA programs

by Maggie Jackson
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK and MICHIGAN (AP)—An intensive study to understand why women are underrepresented in MBA programs was recently launched by three prominent organizations concerned about the lack of women in business. Responsible for the launch were Catalyst, a non-profit organization that works with universities to advance women; The University of Michigan Business School; and The Center for the Education of Women at the

University of Michigan. The first of its kind, this research will yield insights into the strengths and weaknesses of MBA programs for women. The study will also examine the degree of support for female students in these programs, which are widely seen as gateways to corporate leadership, and how women perceive opposition in corporate careers.

While female enrollment in medical and law schools is routinely over 40 percent and women have been prominent in traditionally male-dominated fields such as engineering in increasing numbers, women average no more

than 20 percent of MBA programs according to Business Week's 1996 ranking of the top ten business schools. At the same time, the number of women-owned businesses, employing over 15 million people, has grown by 18 percent over the last five years.

"The enrollment of women at the nation's leading business schools has stagnated, even while enrollments of women in other professional programs, like law and medicine, mirror the nation's economic trend toward having nearly equal representation of men and women," said Catalyst

President Sheila Wellington.

"The numbers suggest that the corporations that drive the success of our economy are missing out on a vast pool of potential business talent," said University of Michigan Business School Dean D. Joseph White.

"A great deal of progress has been made in understanding how to attract women to science and engineering careers and we hope to replicate that trend for women and business," stated Carol Hollenhead, Director of the Center for the Education of Women.

Be a savvy bank shopper

By Dr. Karen Rasel

Do you know how much your bank is charging you to do business with them? The average customer may be paying a lot more than needed for the privilege. Your goal should be to keep more money in your account than in the bank's vault. Follow these golden rules of banking.

Remember the "Rule of Three." Compare at least three institutions before you decide where to do your banking. The closest bank is not always the best choice.

If you are an ATM frequenter. Don't do business with a bank that charges you to use it. The average bank charges \$1 for each use of the ATM machine. That you won't sound like a lot of money, but think of it this way—if you use the ATM only twice a week, that's over \$100 you are paying a year to use your own money. Consider looking elsewhere to bank if this is a service you have made a habit.

Don't order checks from your bank. If you are, you are paying up to three times as much as you should. Banks charge \$12-15 for the same checks which you can order through the mail for \$5.

Whether you are opening a new account or just need to transfer checks, you can save more than half on this recurring expense by ordering directly from companies such as Checks in the Mail (800-723-4443), Current (800-533-3973), or Image Checks (800-876-8766).

Choose the account that best suits your needs. Bank accounts are like shoes; they come in lots of shapes and sizes. By finding the "right" bank account, you can significantly lower your costs. For example, if you usually keep healthy balances in your checking account, you can eliminate the seven to ten dollar monthly account fee by locating a bank that won't charge it as long as you keep the required minimum amount. If you write a few checks a month, select an account that will let you write a set number of checks each month (usually 8-10) without charging a monthly fee. Remember too, some services may be worth paying for, like the ability to use your credit card. You decide what services are most important to you. If you like the bank you are with but want a better deal, negotiate. Banks are extremely competitive these days, so it really pays to shop, shop, shop for the best deals.

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FOR THE JUNE 9, 1998 NEWARK MUNICIPAL RUNOFF ELECTION

CITIZENS MAY REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION AND SUPERINTENDENT OF ELECTIONS 35 WASHINGTON STREET, 1ST FLOOR, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY DAILY 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY MONDAY MAY 11, 1998 8:30 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M. LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS MAY 11, 1998 FOR THE JUNE 9, 1998 NEWARK MUNICIPAL RUNOFF ELECTION ROBERT P. MARASCO City Clerk NEWARK, NEW JERSEY Dated: May 6, 1998

THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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in the **Minority Business Journal** of NJ and NY, the areas leading publication for minorities in business.

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May features:

- Personal finance: Investment & banking tips.
- Eastmond & Sons, father & son business owners

Black people respond to targeted marketing campaigns

According to a report by **Packaged Facts**, black people are highly receptive to financial services that are marketed to them. Example: **Deluxe Corporation**, by creating a check series commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, exceeded their market projections by 15%.

*Packaged Facts is a product of FIND/SVP Research Publications Group

2 great ways to reach the African-American Business & Professional Community



Minority Business Journal

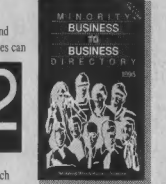
The **Minority Business Journal** is a monthly publication focusing on minority and women business enterprise in New Jersey and New York City. **MBJ** regularly features the accomplishments of minority and women businesses, information concerning maintaining and expanding business, opportunities available for minority entrepreneurs, a calendar of events, editorial and commentary - issues facing minority businesses. **MBJ** offers an excellent forum for classified and display advertising and special business and professional card directories. **MBJ** provides an important communication link in the information network vital to the growth and economic development of minority communities.

Minority Business-to-Business Directory




















The **Minority Business-to-Business Directory** is a directory of minority- and woman-owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities. The **Directory** networks minority businesses, identifies minority and women businesses with whom public and private sector businesses and agencies can contract for products and services, and exposes a growing force for minority businesses to the general consumer. The **Directory** features listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for minority and women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business. The **Minority Business-to-Business Directory** includes listings from public and private sector businesses and agencies, minority and woman-owned business and small businesses. A delineation of ownership is provided with each listing. The **Minority Business-to-Business Directory** is a tool for the growth and expansion of minority and women entrepreneurs and economic development in the African-American community.

Call (908) 754-3400 for more information

Minority Business Journal & Minority Business to Business Directory opens up a whole new world of possibility



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Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

PISCATAWAY—Piscataway Health Commission & Mulhengen Regional Medical Center join in free community program on "Stress/Control of Food-Borne Illness" at 7:30 p.m. at the JFK Library. 201-668-2040.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Robert Wood Johnson University Community Health Education Program will hold a Breastfeeding Support Group at 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the hospital's Board Room. 732-997-0159.

BELLE MEAD—Carter Foundation is sponsoring a program, "Diabetes and Addison" beginning at 9 a.m. in the Ashken Amphitheater. 908-281-1517.

NJ—Watch this special *Cancer News Jersey* and get information about "Choices on Cancer" beginning at 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

GREEN BROOK—The American Red Cross Plainfield Area Chapter and NJ Blood Services are holding a blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Green Brook Manor Nursing Home. 908-756-6414.

NEWARK—Heal Thyself with a 21-day fasting and live food cleansing from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Million Man March Mantra through May 22nd. 973-675-1270.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

PLAINFIELD—A free program titled, "Promise and Progress in MS Treatment - 1998" will be held at Robert Wood Johnson Healthcare Center. Registration is required. Call 201-989-7530.

PARSIPPANY—The American Lung Assoc. of NJ conducts its annual "Breath of Spring Ball" and Community Service Hall of Fame Awards Dinner at the Parsippany Hilton. 908-697-6940.

SUNDAY, MAY 14

BELLE MEAD—Carter Foundation in Belle Mead is hosting a community program, "Stress & Hunger" which will be held from 8:45 to 9 p.m. 908-281-1517.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

BELLEVILLE—Clara Maass Center to hold community health and safety fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the campus of the Medical Center. 1-800-CLARA MAASS.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Arthritis Foundation NJ Chapter is sponsoring a conference at 8:30 a.m. in conjunction with the Community Education Dept. at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital for those affected by arthritis in the hospital's courtyard. 1-888-467-3112.

Report shows more minority teens smoking

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rapid increases in smoking by minority teenagers threaten to reverse the progress against lung cancer among minority populations, which was made during the early 1990s, according to a recent government report.

"Where we once saw hopeful signs of declining lung cancer among minorities in the early years of this decade, we now see striking increases in smoking by minority youth. Unless we can reverse these trends, they are bound to result in more lung disease and early deaths for these populations," said Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher.

In recent years, however, tobacco

use among adolescents from racial and ethnic minority groups has begun to increase rapidly, threatening to reverse the progress made against lung cancer among adults in these minority groups.

Though their rates remain considerably lower than those of whites, cigarette smoking among African-American and Hispanic adolescents has increased in the 1990s after several years of substantial declines among minority youth. This increase is striking, because minority youth had the greatest decline during the '70s and '80s, but steepest increase in the '90s. Cigarette smoking among African-American teens has increased 80 per-

cent over the last six years—three times as fast as the number of whites.

"This new report clearly shows tobacco's increasing grip on racial and ethnic minorities—the fastest growing segments of the American population," said HHS Donna E. Shalala. "This new report underscores the need for Congress to pass comprehensive tobacco legislation this year based on the President's five key principles that include a significant price increase and a plan to dramatically reduce youth tobacco use."

The report surveyed tobacco use and its health consequences among all four major U.S. racial and ethnic minority groups, including African-

American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, American/Pacific Islander and Hispanic. According to the report, cigarette smoking is a major cause of death and disease in all four groups. African-American men bear one of the greatest health burdens of the four ethnic groups, with death rates from lung cancer that are 50 percent higher than those of white men.

"This report sounds an urgent alarm," said Dr. Satcher. "We must use every tool at our disposal to reduce tobacco use among racial and ethnic minorities—especially among adolescents—and to reverse these frightening trends."

Color-cooled health care

by Julianne Malveaux

While income and education gaps between African Americans and whites are narrowing, the health gap is growing.

The National Institute for Aging recently reported that the average African American remains healthy until the age of 56, as compared to 64 years for a white person. African-American women are three times as likely to die in childbirth as white women are, and infant mortality rates, while dropping, are still twice as high for African Americans as for whites. Black women are diagnosed with breast cancer at younger ages, and are more likely to die from that disease than are white women. African Americans are three times more likely to die from high blood pressure than are whites. The incidence of tuberculosis, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and stroke are all higher for African Americans than whites. No matter what health indicator is examined, there is a gap between blacks and whites.

Why? Part of the difference has to do with income. On average, African Americans earn 60 percent of what whites earn. Less money often buys a different set of health services. Indeed, the poorest Americans often have health care delivered through emergency rooms, and have no access to preventive care.

But even when incomes are equal, health gaps remain. Do doctors treat black and white patients differently, regardless of income? Some consumers of health services assert that

such differences exist.

Education also make a difference in the kind of health care people seek out. Again, though, when education levels are held constant, there still remain differences in Julianne Malveaux



some health indicators. African Americans may have the ability to seek out the best medical care there is, but may not be able to control the stereotypes that shape the kind of health services they get. Even when we control for a number of factors, including income, education, obesity, and smoking, the health gap remains.

Does the stress of black life in a racist society contribute to the large number of African-American men diagnosed with prostate cancer? Does it contribute to the fact that many African-American men in their early forties have experienced heart attacks and sometimes died from them? Does it contribute to the alarmingly high levels of high blood pressure among African Americans?

To be sure, cultural factors may also play a role in the health gap. It has been more than 30 years since civil-rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer declared that she was "sick and tired of being sick and tired," but too many

African-American women, at all income levels, consider sickness and tiredness part of the course.

How do we close the gap? There has to be equal access to quality health care, but there also has to be shifts in attitudes. Patients have to be much more aggressive about demanding the care that they need. Doctors have to be much more enlightened about the

assumptions that shape the care they offer.

The health gap is a shameful reminder of the fact that we need much more than a conversation on race to move us to racial equality.

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and a nationally syndicated columnist with the King Features Syndicate.

Local telephone hotline marks Suicide Prevention Week

FANWOOD—Every seventeen seconds, someone in our country dies by suicide. Most people live under the assumption that suicide will never happen to their loved one. Yet in the United States each year, more than 30,000 families face the reality that their loved one believed that it was better to die than continue living.

Throughout Union, Middlesex, Somerset and Essex Counties, CONTACT We Care, the 24-hour telephone hotline and crisis intervention service, works to prevent these tragedies. Trained volunteers actively listen, understand and assist callers to work through their problems.

"Suicide is usually preceded by depression and other mental illnesses," said Virginia Anthony, LCSW, acting director of CONTACT We Care. "Such conditions can be treated and the suicidal person can be assisted to reach a stage where their suicidal thoughts subside."

May 3 through 9 is National Suicide Prevention Week. Across the country, CONTACT telephone hotline centers are drawing attention to the fact that suicide prevention is everyone's business.

If you need to talk, call CONTACT We Care at 232-2850. A trained volunteer is available to help.

Blood drive underway in East Orange

EAST ORANGE—The Blood Center of New Jersey is appealing to community members to help rebuild the blood supply in the face of declining donations. "We believe people who donate blood are heroes," said Judy Daniels, spokesperson for the blood center. "Those who donate blood give a part of themselves to save the life of another and that life is most often that of a stranger. What we need every day are more heroes, more, right now, throughout the year," she said.

The Blood Center is also looking for people willing to help sponsor a blood drive in their place of business, religious organization, or community group.

Donors must be 18 years of age. Seventeen year olds may donate with parental permission. There is no upper age limit for donors provided those over 65 have donated within the last 2 years, or have a doctor's note. Donors should know their social security number and bring a signed form of identification. People with cold or flu symptoms should wait until they are feeling better before donating, and there is a 72 hour deferral for dental work, including routine teeth cleaning. For those who have traveled outside of the United States recently, call the blood center for eligibility criteria.

For more information or to sign up for a blood drive, call the blood center at 1-800-BLOOD NJ (256-6365). For information on planning a blood drive, call 1-800-652-5663, ext. 156.

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Religion Calendar

SUNDAY, MAY 10

NEWARK—A Mother's Day Gospel Program in honor of Mrs. Celia Olsen at The Church of God and Saints of Christ, Doors open at 3 p.m. For more info, call 973-629-2293.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

MAPLEWOOD—Summit Church presents "Spring Eternal," spring selections from Orie's "Carmine Burna" at 8 p.m. 973-752-8486.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

NEWARK—Bethany Baptist Church presents Bethune-Cookman College Choir sponsored by the Black College Committee at 4 p.m. in St. John's Lutheran Church, 908-464-7338, ext. 6879.

SUNDAY, JULY 14

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Off-Broadway play entitled, "Another Chance," a gospel musical drama, written by Melrose Marie Ford will appear at Crossroads Theatre through August 2nd. 732-247-2981.

ATTENTION !!!

Churches and Mosques

Please send your religious editorials and calendar events to:

City News
Attn: Religious Calendar
P.O. Box 191
Plainfield, NJ 07061
or
fax your calendar listings to: 908-753-1036

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Homeless but not helpless

The Doe Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization whose goal is to empower formerly homeless individuals to achieve lives of independence and self-sufficiency through paid-work opportunities opened a residentially-based Ready, Willing & Able program in Jersey City on May 4, 1998.

With two Supportive House Program Grants from HUD, Ready, Willing & Able, a paid-work and life and job skills training program, will lease a portion of the New Hope Housing facility located at 654 Bergen Avenue, formerly owned and operated by the YMCA. The program plans to house, employ, and train 58 formerly homeless individuals. In order to recruit participants, Ready, Willing & Able will work with other area non-profit service providers, in particular

St. Lucy's Shelter. Once recruited, trainees will participate in a community improvement project where they will be paid to clean streets, gutters, sidewalks and vacant lots, and to remove graffiti throughout Jersey City.

"We are honored to support the efforts of Ready, Willing & Able, a training program which will provide Jersey City residents with countless valuable services, including the rehabilitation of a substantial portion of our homeless population. We look forward to working with the staff of Ready, Willing & Able as they undertake this extremely worthwhile initiative," said Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler.

Founded in 1990, Ready, Willing & Able provides a holistic structured environment where formerly homeless

individuals can restore their self-esteem and regain power of their lives by becoming productive members of society. Originally established in Brooklyn, the program has expanded to locations in Harlem, Washington, DC and now Jersey City. Participants are recruited from the city's streets, shelters, and prisons and are provided with housing, jobs, life skills, education and the support services necessary to rebuild their lives. Trainees receive a minimum wage of \$5.50 per hour as a training incentive for their work and successfully complete the program when they have obtained full-time private-sector employment, market-rate self-supported housing, and drug/alcohol-free living.

By choosing work over welfare and personal responsibility over hand-

outs, Ready, Willing & Able participants are demonstrating their readiness to rebuild their lives through hard work. Ready, Willing & Able mirrors the "real world" that the trainees will enter upon completing the program. Participants are required to work, contribute to room and board, and to save for the future. In the evening, trainees attend meetings, receive release prevention counseling, attend life-skills workshops, and begin the process of recruiting with their families. Ready, Willing & Able is the most successful residential work program in the nation and her, moved more than 600 homeless and indigent adults from lives of drug addiction, incarceration, and welfare dependency to productive, tax-paying independence.

Give a child a future



Dashaan, 9 years old

Dashaan is an intelligent, handsome, nine-year-old African American boy. His academic achievement is the source of enormous pride for him. Although only nine, he reads on a sixth grade level. Dashaan currently resides in a therapeutic foster home where he is receiving assistance in addressing his behavioral and emotional challenges. His intelligence combined with his determined nature is the key to his ongoing success.

For more information on how you or someone you know can make a difference in Dashaan's future, please call Staci White at 201-487-2022.

How meditation heals the spirit and soul

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

A reader with whom I communicated via e-mail recently asked me about meditation. I responded by offering a few basic suggestions. Later, I thought passing some tips along about meditation to more readers might be beneficial. The word meditation frightens some people. They think you are advocating an exotic philosophy or foreign religion. (Heaven forbid anyone should suggest an alternative to their "tired" and failing regimen, doctrine or behavioral patterns.) Meditation is not an alien or obscure discipline, it is extremely practical and health enhancing. One study proved that meditation slows heart rates and breathing, lowers oxygen consumption, blood lactate levels and stimulates overall system relaxation. Meditation has been used to treat such stress-related conditions as high blood pressure, heart disease, anxiety and depression.

Many people oppose meditation because it requires discipline and they are unwilling to invest the time and energy to master their own mind and body. Westerners don't generally practice meditation. Their religious and philosophical tradition is one of devotion to a religious functionary to tell them what to do and how to live their lives. Obviously in such a scenario functionaries never teach people anything that will lead to independent thought or habit for fear they will lose their captive audience.

I don't practice formal meditation as such, but I will share with you

some basic meditation techniques. If you want more information, go to the library or seek out those who practice meditation on a regular basis.

The key to meditation

Begin by sitting in a comfortable position, straight in a chair, with your feet flat on the floor, knees apart and hands on your lap. Tuck your chin in and arch your back. Close your mouth and breathe through your nose. Be aware of your body, adjust yourself until you are completely comfortable. Be aware of your surroundings. Focus on your breathing. Take slow deep breaths. In the beginning, until you get your own personal style down pat, focus on your abdomen. Push out on the in breath and pull in on the out breath. Sit quietly in an unagitated state of mind, be prepared to remain sitting for a while. If you must, focus on the various parts of your body consciously relaxing your feet, legs, buttock muscles, your jaw, neck, face etc. until you are completely relaxed. Become aware of your thoughts. If your mind wanders, don't fight the ideas, thoughts or images just bring your focus back to your breathing. Follow the ebb and flow of your breathing to establish a rhythm and remain focused on the present, on your body or your breathing, select one to focus on.

Your meditation is your own. make it personal. Put yourself into a relaxed state of being but don't fall asleep! Stay awake and conscious. The deep breathing may make you feel light-headed at first. If you do and you feel alarmed, stop.

As you become more comfortable breathing deeply the light-headedness will cease. As with anything, the more you practice it, the more comfortable and proficient you will become.

The more proficient you become at meditation, the more you will be able to give yourself autosuggestions, or implant images into your subconscious mind, ask questions or make requests that will be responded to. It will take a while but in due time

you will find yourself able to go into this relaxed mental state at will. (Many of us do it several times a day, we call it day dreaming when we remove our concentration from the mundane, redirecting it to something else and lose track of time and space.) I don't want this to sound too esoteric, it is extremely practical and it works. Give it the benefit of any doubt and try it for three weeks straight. If it works for you, keep it. If it doesn't, forget it.

Sister Francis Raftery inaugurated as college's sixth president



Newly Inaugurated President and Sister of Charity Sister Francis Raftery spoke to students Irene Gyan, right, and Marie Francois, during a luncheon at the College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, April 21. The students, in ethnic dress, worked later in the afternoon in a colorful parade of world flags and lead the traditional academic procession at the inauguration ceremony. Photo by Kathy Caccione

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For all our mothers

The second Sunday in May is special for all mothers, and by extension, their children. This is the day to wish them happiness, and do them honor. The City News staff has taken the time to pay this tribute to their mothers who they feel reflect the qualities of black mothers who hold their families together.

Making beauty with your own hands

How Thelma Mattox creates the fabric of life

By g.r. mattox
Assistant Editor

The hour from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. is inviolate for my mom. "I got to watch my 'Young and Restless,'" she says, grabbing the remote in one hand, her embroidery hoop in the other and settling into her chair by the window. She can go into alarmingly intricate detail about Jill, Mrs. Chandler and whoever else is part of the story line.

Let's you think watching the soaps is Thelma Mattox's most important activity, let me assure you that it is the least. For the past few years my mom, now living in a comfortable senior citizen's complex in East Orange, has been deeply involved in the craft of quilting, combining her considerable skills in design, art, and hand sewing. She even shared her experience and skill with a group of sixth graders in a volunteer assignment at a local elementary school.

"Sewing is something I've always liked to do," this grandmother of three explains. "When I was young, if you wanted clothes, you'd better be able to make them." So, her first attempts at quilting started long before she came to New Jersey and reared me and my three brothers. The native of Clinton, S.C., settled in Newark in 1951 and spent 15 years working at Alexander's department store before her retirement and going back to sewing.

"I kept seeing these patterns in the newspaper craft section made up of transfers where you stamp and embroider the blocks. I didn't have anything else interesting going on, so I ordered the one with all the basic blocks."

About 15 quilts later her basic technique remains the same. "It's wonderful to make beauty with your own hands." After stitching together the blocks and laying them out over the bating and backing, the whole thing is fastened to her quilstand, where the time-consuming quilt stitching is done to yield another fascinating creation.

Mom's early quilts followed the printed instructions, more or less. "I never go strictly by the book," she says. "Then I would lose interest." Later designs include appliques and patchwork with the embroidery. Her project with the sixth graders was a "No-Flt" quilt — little round fluted pouches sewn together. "The



Above: Thelma Mattox, mother of City News Assistant Editor g.r. mattox, on Easter 1998.
Right: g.r. and her Mom with her grandmother, the late Berna Glenn Rutledge, 1982.



kids were very enthusiastic — I was really impressed and surprised," she says. Their thanks to "Ms. Thelma" included a certificate of appreciation, lunch at a fancy restaurant, participation in the school's Grandparent's Day, and an invitation to the June graduation.

When she puts the embroidery needle down, she usually picks up a book, her favorite authors being V.C. Andrews, Sidney Sheldon, Danielle Steel, and Bernice Small. She recently finished the autobiography of an acquaintance from her Portsmouth days — Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, singer Ruth Brown.

Like her sewing, her baking leads

her to try new things. "I have a group of people I'm always tryin' stuff on," she says with a grin. "My 'guinea pigs' are very good-natured about this, you understand. Even when the stuff is bad they let me down easy."

After she finishes a quilt, then what? "I mostly just fold them up, set them in the closet, and take them down to show off," she says. I figure that they are worth about \$400 and up, but the people I run into do not have that kind of money to spend.

"Anyway," she says with a wave of her hand, "I am not interested in selling them so much. I like to see them made like I like to watch my grandchildren grow."

A Tribute to my Mother Queen

By Yonda Wallace aka Kai Nyimu
Production Assistant

My Mother, Queen Wallace, 59 was my first teacher. I'm still learning from her as she manifests her knowledge through her life's experiences. My Mother is the oldest of ten and from early on learned to be responsible and dutiful to her siblings, helping my Grandmother, Mary Wallace with the tasks of cooking, cleaning and caring for the family.

My Mother struggled single-handedly to raise a son and 3 daughters. She was successful. She said farewell to welfare and qualified herself to be a home health aide and began working full-time to support us. I didn't realize until many years later what struggle my Mother went through to take care of us, providing us with food, clothing, shelter and a very important ingredient: emotional security. I was blessed to have a very happy childhood, full of love and



Queen Wallace, mother of four, grandmother of seven

fun times.

I thank Almighty God, Allah, for Blessing me with my Mother who has endured through many years of trials and tribulations. My Mother taught and continues to teach me the value of family and sticking together as one.

I enjoy watching my Mother dance and have a good time. My Mother and I can communicate even without communicating. Her Motherly instinct tells her when something is bothering me and I feel comforted as she eases my mind with soothing words of wisdom.

When I drive my Mother to work, I wish that I was in a position to take care of her so that she could do whatever it is she wanted to do to enjoy a better quality of life.

Thanks Mom for the beautiful work you've done with me and my brother, Seven; sisters, Terry and Tiana; my daughter, Khadijah; and my nephews, Zaire and Keyon... you're the Best! Everyday is Mother's Day. I love you!!!

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On your day



Dolores Kimble, mother of two

By Sonya Kimble-Ellis
Associate Editor
Minority Business Journal

By the way... on your day, may I take the time to say, all the things, you mean, to me... Gave me life, from your life. In your womb I assumed, the beginnings of what we would become. ONE.

Forever, all my life... always one. When there's none, you'll forever be my sun. Never questioning my answers, always answering my questions, made suggestions, when I seemed to lose my way. On your day, mother let me say,

your example showed me how to be, the me I could be. Thanks for loving and taking care of me, when at times there seemed no easy way, to make a way to the next day. First queen and mother of the earth, for all it's worth, let me say, there aren't enough words to convey, on your day, what you mean... really mean, to me.

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